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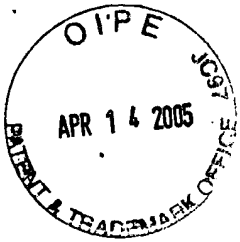
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application Serial No. 10/731,419
Filing Date December 9, 2003
Confirmation No..... 3921
Inventor Bejjani et al.
Group Art Unit 1645
Examiner
Attorney's Docket No. SH1-0001US
Title: Methods of Designing, Synthesizing, and Propagating Reference Nucleic
Acids

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

To: Mail Stop Missing Parts
Commissioner for Patents
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INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This second preliminary amendment includes a substitute paper “sequence listing” on 4 sheets of paper with identical content to a substitute computer readable form (CRF) of the sequence listing, that was requested in a Notice mailed from the Patent Office on January 26, 2005.

This substitute paper sequence listing on 4 sheets of paper is to replace the existing sequence listing from the first preliminary amendment.

The original CRF of the sequence listing was technically flawed, having a misspelled word “artificial” and missing a mandatory feature, the “<220>” tag. The substitute CRF provided herein has been cleared via the “Checker” version 4.2 program, from the PTO website. The substitute paper version of the sequence listing is identical to the substituted CRF version.

Amendments to the Specification begin of page 3 of this paper.

A Listing of the Claims begins on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 11 of this paper.